

REMARKS

Consideration of the comments which follow in response to the the Official Action mailed September 20, 2006 is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Restriction requirement

The examiner requires restriction under 35 USC §121 to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-4 and 15 drawn to a compound, classified in Class 564, subclass 321

Group II: Claim 5 drawn to an antibody produced in response to a compound, classified in Class 436, subclass 547

Group III: Claims 6-12 drawn to monoclonal antibodies specific for efavirenz, classified in Class 530, subclass 388.9

The examiner argues that the inventions are distinct because: Inventions I-III, related each to the other, are independent and distinct inventions differing in design, performance, structure, mode of operation, function, and effect. The antibodies of Groups II or III do not have the structure of the compounds of Group I and do not require the compounds as claimed for use. The antibodies of Group II are not required to be monoclonal or to bind to the same antigen as the antibodies of Group III.

Election for Examination

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 15, without traverse.

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The examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


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